

PHARMACARE NEWSLETTER

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Web site: <http://www.hlth.gov.bc.ca/pharmc/index.html>

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Policy change regarding certification requirements for diabetics

In the past, diabetics have been required to hold a valid Certificate of Training from an approved diabetic teaching centre and to obtain re-certification one to three years after their initial certification in order to qualify for Pharmacare coverage of blood glucose monitoring strips.

The benefits of follow-up instruction and continued education in the management of diabetes remains a valuable benefit to diabetics, however, Pharmacare has determined that re-certification should not be a requirement for Pharmacare purposes.

Effective immediately, Pharmacare policy will no longer require re-certification for the purpose of continued eligibility for coverage of monitoring strips.

Diabetics with existing Certificates of Training and newly diagnosed diabetics whose initial Certificate of Training is submitted to Pharmacare will be eligible for ongoing coverage.

Follow-ups to certification and education in diabetes management will continue to be provided through Diabetes Education Centres, regular visits to physicians, web sites and the *BC Health Guide*.

Enclosed are copies of a letter to patients explaining the change. We would appreciate your assistance in informing patients by posting and/or distributing these letters.

Policy change regarding methadone for Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) clients

Effective January 1, 2002, Pharmacare will no longer provide coverage of methadone for clients of the Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) program.

The NIHB Program covers the cost of methadone for eligible clients. To obtain reimbursement for methadone for an NIHB client, pharmacists must apply for special authorization from the NIHB Drug Exception Centre.

Pharmacists can contact the centre by calling **1-800-580-0950** (Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. EST).

Discontinuation of the Quality Assurance toll-free phone line

As of December 1, 2001, the toll-free line for the Pharmacare Quality Assurance area will be discontinued. The low volume of calls on this line is insufficient to justify the costs associated with maintaining it.

Pharmacare Quality Assurance can be reached directly at **(250) 952-3508** or by calling the usual HelpDesk telephone numbers



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